



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIAN

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The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #GBW-05-034c

TITLE: Provisions Affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian Elders in the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act For Submission to the White House Conference on Aging

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act is under consideration for reauthorization in the 109th Congress and the White House Conference on Aging will produce resolutions addressing provisions to amend in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Act contains several key provisions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders; and

WHEREAS, the Act previously provided for an Indian White House Conference on Aging; and

WHEREAS, Title II states that the Assistant Secretary of Aging shall “serve as the effective and visible advocate for older individuals within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government by maintaining active review and commenting responsibilities over all Federal policies affecting older individuals;”

WHEREAS, the older Indians receive fewer than one percent of the services provided under Title III of the Older Americans Act; and

WHEREAS, the older Indians have the highest rates of disease prevalence and receive less than half of what the federal government provides to federal prisoners for health care and Title VI funds assist Native Elders in eating healthier and managing chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, Title IV funds projects to decrease the prevalence of health disparities among older Indians; and

WHEREAS, Title IV, Part A also provides funding for resource centers and national technical assistance centers to research and examine the health and social services that Indian Elders require; and

WHEREAS, Title V provides for a National Indian Sponsor to assure employment training and placement services are provided to Indian Elders who have traditionally been underserved because of their location, discrimination, and poor employment prospects; and

WHEREAS, Title VI has never had comparable funding to Title III as mandated and the provision of services to Indian Elders is limited to nutrition services and usually offered only a few days a week; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is a growing issue facing Elders in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has never requested funding for Title VII, Part B, that establishes grants for Native American entities to “carry out vulnerable elder rights protection activities” for older Indians.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request from the President and Congress of the United States to provide the necessary services under Title VI to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders that the Older Americans Act and the federal trust responsibility are designed to address by implementing the following recommendations:

- Assistant Secretary shall act as an advocate and request adequate funding for Title VI services for older Indians when the President formulates his annual budget;
- Elevate the Director of the Office of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs to the Deputy Secretary level;
- Reestablish the occurrence of the Indian White House Conference on Aging as previously provided in the Act;
- Provide \$1.3 million for national training and technical assistance opportunities for Title VI Directors, staff and caregivers;
- Require the Area Agencies on Aging under Title III to work closely with the Title VI in providing services to Native American Elders;
- Provide for continued training to improve Native American Elders’ access to social services in Indian Country;
- Continue support for national technical assistance centers and resource centers focusing on the health disparities and social service needs of Indian Elders;
- Retain the National Indian Sponsor for the Title V and exclusion from state planning;
- Increase funding to \$8 million for Title V services to National Native American Sponsor as the number of older low-income Americans is growing, including that of Indian Elders;
- Increase appropriations for Title VI from \$26.4 million to \$100 million by 25% increments annually;

- Provide adequate funding for supportive services such as transportation and provision of meals up to seven days a week;
- Request \$1 million in first-time funding for Title VII, Part B to provide elder abuse awareness and protection grants in Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the Older Americans Act has been reauthorized, whether in the 109th U.S. Congress or in subsequent sessions if not reauthorized in the 109th Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

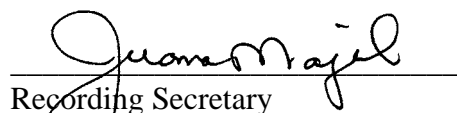
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, Green Bay, Wisconsin on June 12–15, 2005 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.